procedures and widening the scope of the Act to make it more functional and effective, has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26th April, 2001.

(b) Some of the important amendments contained in the Bill are as follows:

(i) Creation of benches of the National Commission and State Commissions and holding of circuit benches;

(ii) Prescribing time-frame for admission of complaint, issue of notices and disposal of complaint;

(iii) Exclusion of services availed for commercial purposes;

(iv) Recovery of compensation amount ordered by the redressal agency through certificate case as arrears of land revenue;

(v) Provision for issue of interim orders by the redressal agencies;

(vi) Establishment of consumer protection council at district level.

(c) Enactment of the Amendment Bill is expected to facilitate the working of the consumer disputes redressal agencies in the country and help in achieving speedy settlement of consumer disputes and also strengthening of the consumer movement at grass roots level.

Imported edible oils

1850. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of imported edible oils allocated to the States/ UTs during 2000-2001;

(b) whether any State has complained about inadequate supply to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to fulfil the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A quantity of 42124 tonnes edible oils has been allocated to States/UTs during 2000-2001.

(b) to (d) Due to easy availability of edible oils at comfortable prices in the open market, Government of India has decided for the time being not to import edible oils for its distribution through PDS. However, those of the States who have placed their demands have been advised to contact STC to import edible oils on mutually agreed terms without any element of subsidy.

Rejection of wheat by Iraq

1851. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been put to distress with the rejection of another consignment of wheat by Iraq as appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated the 1st November, 2001;

(b) whether it was rejected due to fungi found in the said consignment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the loss suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The report that appeared in the Navbharat Times in its issue dated the 1st November, 2001 does not depict the correct position. No allocation of wheat has been made by the Food Corporation of India after June, 2001 for the purpose of export to Iraq.